



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SYNOPSIS OF LUONG LAM AND LUCIANO CASE  
WSGC CASE # 2003-05045.**

Washington State Gambling Commission (WSGC) Special Agents, with the assistance of Tacoma Police, served two search warrants on Sunday evening (12-21) at Luciano's Casino, 3327 Ruston Way, in Tacoma. The service of the warrants was a culmination of an investigation into illegal sports betting by several gambling commission licensed card room employees.

The eleven agents involved in the service of the warrants suspended all play and temporarily closed Luciano's Casino; it reopened at 11:00 p.m. Players were cashed out and left the casino. All on duty employees were interviewed and two were arrested and transported to the Pierce County Jail.

The arrests followed a three month investigation into Professional Gambling, specifically for conducting illegal sports betting, commonly known as bookmaking. Luong LAM was booked for Prof. Gambling 1<sup>st</sup>, a Class B felony. Randy LIZAMA was booked for Prof. Gambling 1<sup>st</sup> and Cheating 1<sup>st</sup>, a Class C felony. The cheating charge arises from LIZAMA cheating in dealing cards to an undercover special agent during the investigation.

A special agent from the WSGC has been betting with these two on numerous occasions since October. During the course of the investigation, the undercover agent would openly discuss the betting in the casino and would place money for the bets in an envelope, which was entered into the cashier's cage, where casino chips are normally cashed in. Numerous employees of the casino were in the vicinity of the undercover agent and the dealers when bets were made and while betting discussions would take place. Bets were passed on slips of paper to supervisors who placed those bets on the floor supervisors' podium until the dealers could pick them up. In the course of the investigation, approximately 13 licensed employees could be identified as being within earshot or view of the illegal activity. Commission rules require licensees to report illegal activities, of which they have knowledge or which they observe.

In addition to those arrested, agents interviewed all persons who were working in the casino. Additional interviews of employees who were not on duty will be conducted as the investigation continues.

The owner, Mr. Dan Hilger, responded to the casino shortly after the commission special agents arrived. At this point of the investigation, it is believed that Hilger was not aware of the illegal activities that were occurring in his casino. Mr. Hilger and casino management are cooperating with gambling commission special agents in the continuing investigation.

At the same time as agents entered the casino, another search warrant was served on the residence of Luong Lam, 11602 SE 193<sup>rd</sup> Place, in Renton. Agents searched the home, seized records which appear to be associated with the illegal betting, cash divided in several individual envelopes (identical to ones used to pay our undercover agent), a computer, two fax machines, and nine pieces of high quality gold jewelry.

Special Agents are continuing with the investigation, including analyzing evidence seized and conducting follow up interviews to complete the investigation. In addition to criminal charges, the commission will file administrative charges where appropriate for violations of commission rules.